



RESEARCH
FOR THE
DIGITAL AGE

Call for Applications

The funding program of CAIS College is continuous.

The Program Committee of the Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) convenes twice a year to select applications for funding.

If you submit your application by **31 January 2022**, you can expect a decision by the end of July 2022.

Understanding the risks and opportunities of digitalization

CAIS College funds innovative projects that deal with the social opportunities and challenges of digital transformation, and that develop perspectives for practice. The funding program is open to scholars and practitioners, to all disciplines and areas of investigation, as well as to pure research and to projects that are more applied in orientation. Decisive criteria for funding a project are its excellence, topicality, relevance to society, and the potential to foster interdisciplinary dialogue.

CAIS College offers two lines of funding:

- **Fellowships** for scholars and practitioners who spend three or six months at the center to work individually or with others on a project
- **Working Groups** of two to twelve members who wish to make use of the resources of the center to meet for up to three weeks

These lines of funding can be combined with each other. If you wish to do that, please contact Dr Esther Laufer (esther.laufer@cais.nrw) before applying.

CAIS College supports experts of all professional backgrounds and career stages. Therefore, persons without an academic degree are also invited to apply, if they can demonstrate a special expertise in the research topics of the center and are highly distinguished within their peer group.

Research at CAIS College

CAIS is a place of innovative and interdisciplinary research and a forum for the exchange of ideas between academia and society. At the College, researchers from a diverse range of disciplines as well as practitioners can carry out individual or joint projects in the vast field of digitalization and internet research. Modern infrastructure and ample opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking provide an ideal working environment. The two lines of funding – fellowships and working groups – make it possible to tailor any stay to the requirements of the project and the participants.

For the duration of their program at CAIS, fellows and working groups stay in Bochum and are free to pursue autonomous research and collaborative exchange according to their own priorities. They are part of a community that serves academic and social interaction. With their flexible office space and group rooms the facilities provide for diverse forms of cooperation. A lounge with a tea kitchen can be used for relaxed get-togethers. The weekly dinners also allow for an exchange in an informal atmosphere.

Selection Process

Applications that meet the formal requirements will be assessed by two reviewers. The evaluation criteria are:

- professional expertise and qualification
- relevance and topicality
- originality and innovative potential
- academic results
- practical results
- interdisciplinarity
- feasibility of the work plan

in the case of academic projects

- theories and methods

in the case of working groups

- expertise and qualification of other participants

Based on this assessment and under consideration of interdisciplinary balance, budget restrictions, office and accommodation capacities, the Program Committee will make its final decisions. The voting members of the Program Committee are the academic director, the director of CAIS College, the head of knowledge transfer and public relations, six distinguished scholars from the field of digitalization and internet studies as well as two professionals with practice-based expertise.

Fellowships

Scholars and practitioners can apply for the residential fellowship program to conduct studies and projects in their various fields. Fellowships are usually awarded to applicants working on individual projects. However, joint applications for collaborative projects are also possible.

As a residential college CAIS does not only foster concentration but also inspiration. In order to promote exchange at the center, regular activities take place on the core days from Tuesday to Thursday, including breakfast on Tuesday, colloquium and fellows' dinner on Wednesday, and excursions or self-organized discussion formats on Thursday.

The duration of residency at CAIS College is either three or six months. Fellowships of six months usually start in October or April. Fellowships of three months can start in October, January, April, or July. Exceptions are possible in the case of different international semester or trimester structures, or other work commitments. In such cases, please contact Dr Esther Laufer (esther.laufer@cais.nrw) to agree a possible period of stay before submitting the application.

Requirements

CAIS College funds projects that deal with the social opportunities and challenges of digital transformation.

Fellowships are awarded to highly accomplished academics and practitioners in the field. An academic degree is not required, if applicants are highly distinguished within their peer group.

Master or PhD dissertations cannot be funded.

Fellows are required to fully concentrate on their project, to be present at CAIS on the core days Tuesday to Thursday, to participate in regular joint activities and to actively contribute to

the interdisciplinary dialogue. Fellows who are in employment should be released from their work duties for the duration of their fellowship.

Contributing to the dialogue of the international fellow community requires very good English skills.

CAIS supports the exchange between academia and practice and the public discourse on the process of digitalization. Therefore, the practical implications of academic projects and the academic benefits of practical projects should be stated clearly in the applications. Concepts for the exchange between academia and other realms of society will be considered positively in the selection process. In addition to this, fellows are expected to participate in the knowledge transfer activities organized by CAIS.

Funding and Facilities

Fellows at CAIS should ideally be on sabbatical from their home institution with a full salary. In that case, fellows will receive an additional grant of €600 per month from CAIS. Alternatively, reimbursement for the costs of their salary or of a substitute can be paid within reasonable limits. Fellows with no regular income will receive a grant of €2000 per month. Fellows with a regular income below €1400 will be given a grant that covers the difference to the full grant. Fellows with a full or compensatory grant receive an additional payment of €100 per month for each child under the age of 18.

Fellows can receive financial support for research expenses (e.g. travel expenses, license fees, services). They can furthermore apply to invite a visiting fellow with whom they wish to collaborate for up to three weeks during their stay. It is also possible to invite experts from Europe for lectures or workshops. CAIS will cover the travel and accommodation expenses for these guests and pay them a daily allowance of €24. Applications for financial support or the invitation of guests can be submitted with the main application or during the fellowship. Furthermore, fellows and alumni can apply for grants of up to €5000 for innovative measures of knowledge transfer.

Fellows are provided with desks at CAIS and rent-free, fully furnished two-room apartments. For fellows arriving with more than one underage child CAIS can also provide bigger apartments. In addition, CAIS will cover travel expenses for one return-trip to Bochum in accordance with the state regulations on the reimbursement of travel costs. Alternatively, CAIS can cover the costs of a daily commute if the fellow lives within 100 km from the center and does not require accommodation in Bochum.

Further costs will not be covered by CAIS. Expenses for health and liability insurance, moving or visa fees cannot be reimbursed.

Application Instructions

Applications can be submitted in German or English via the [application form](#) on our website and must be understandable to a general audience.

The full proposal must include the following elements:

1. Personal data and funds requested
2. Outline of proposal
 - abstract (max. 300 words)
 - subject and lines of research (max. 1.500 words)
 - academic results (max. 300 words)

- practical results (max. 300 words)
 - preliminary work (max. 300 words)
 - work plan (max. 300 words)
- in the case of academic projects
- literature review/ State of the Art (max. 700 words)
 - theories and methods (max. 700 words)
3. Where applicable: application for the invitation of a visiting fellow or of experts for talks or workshops
 4. Curriculum Vitae (PDF, max. two pages with no more than five publication references)
 5. One relevant publication (PDF, max. 5 MB)

Working Groups

The working group program is aimed at scholars and practitioners who wish to make use of the resources of CAIS to meet and collaborate. A working group consists of two to twelve members who spend from a couple of days to three weeks in Bochum. It is also possible to meet several times in the course of one year.

The earliest possible starting date for new working groups is January 2023.

Requirements

CAIS College funds projects that deal with the social opportunities and challenges of digital transformation.

Applicants for working groups should be highly accomplished academics or practitioners in the field. An academic degree is not required, if applicants are highly distinguished within their peer group.

CAIS supports the exchange between academia and practice and the public discourse on the process of digitalization. Therefore, the practical implications of academic projects and the academic benefits of practical projects should be stated clearly in the applications. Concepts for the exchange between academia and other realms of society will be considered positively in the selection process. In addition to this, organizers of working groups are expected to participate in the knowledge transfer activities organized by CAIS.

At the time of application, the majority of the invited experts must have confirmed their attendance.

Funding and Facilities

Funding for working groups is usually limited to €10,000. Members of working groups receive a daily allowance of €24 during their stay at CAIS. Alternatively, catering can be arranged for groups of more than five people for up to three days. Working groups are provided with flexible workspaces at the center. In addition, CAIS will cover participants' accommodation and travel expenses in accordance with the state regulations on the reimbursement of travel costs. Alternatively, CAIS can cover the costs of a daily commute if the participant does not require accommodation in Bochum.

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 - preliminary work (max. 300 words)
 - work plan (max. 300 words)
- in the case of academic projects
- literature review/ State of the Art (max. 700 words)
 - theories and methods (max. 700 words)
 3. Curriculum Vitae (PDF, max. two pages with no more than five publication references)
 4. One relevant publication (PDF)
 5. List of participants with the following information: name, institution/company, discipline/profession, traveling from/to, status of participation (invited/confirmed) (PDF)